

NEWS FM525

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JAMIE RAPPAPORT CLARK NOMINATED TO HEAD U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Papers officially nominating Jamie Rappaport Clark as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were forwarded from the White House to the U.S. Congress yesterday. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced it would hold hearings on Clark's nomination July 16.

"Jamie Clark is an experienced career professional who has been involved on a daily basis with many of the major wildlife issues facing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," said Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. "She knows the Service well and will bring to the job energy, commitment, and an understanding of the Service and its major constituents. I am very pleased that the President has made Jamie his choice for Director."

Clark must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Upon confirmation she will become the second woman to lead the agency. Former Service Director Mollie Beattie died of brain cancer June 27, 1996. Since that time John G. Rogers has served as Acting Director.

Clark has served as the Service's Assistant Director for Ecological Services since 1994. In this position she has been responsible for implementation of the Endangered Species Act nationwide and has overseen habitat restoration programs, wetlands protection, contaminants damage restoration programs, and other Service initiatives involving environmental protection. During her career with the Service, she has served as chief of the Division of Endangered Species and as Deputy Assistant Regional Director in the Southwest Region and as senior staff biologist. Before joining the Fish and Wildlife Service eight years ago, she served as Fish and Wildlife Administrator for the Department of the Army from 1988-89, and Natural/Cultural Resources Coordinator for the National Guard Bureau from 1984-88. She has also worked as a research biologist for the Army Medical Research Institute and a wildlife biologist for the National Institute for Urban Wildlife.

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